

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 remain pending in this application with claims 6, 7, 12 and 13 being withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 has been amended for purposes of clarification.

Rejection of Claim 1 under 35 USC § 102(e)

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Eastman (U.S. Patent No. 5,940,737).

The present claimed invention discloses a method of selecting a satellite signal via an integrated receiver/decoder (IRD). The method comprises the steps of sending command signal from the IRD to a selector switch. The IRD is acquired and locked to the satellite signal. The command signal is then resent from the IRD to the selector switch once the IRD has acquired and locked onto the satellite signal.

The problem encountered by an IRD in a unidirectional system is that the IRD receives no feedback from the switch. Thus, a message may be sent to the switch without the IRD knowing whether the switch actually received the message. The current invention repeats its transmission of a command signal from the IRD to the selector switch such that in the event the selector switch failed to switch to the LNB corresponding to the initial command signal, then the repeated command signal helps to ensure that the selector switch switches to the LNB corresponding with the latest command signal sent by the IRD. The resent command signal is disregarded when it's determined that the selector switch is coupled to the LNB corresponding to the command signal. Thus, the present claimed invention provides a method and system for ensuring a proper satellite network and transponder selection via an IRD and switch. The present claimed invention improves the operations of satellite systems using unidirectional messaging by providing further assurance that the switch is controlled to select the correct transponder preventing the possibility of sending the user an incorrect satellite signal.

Eastman discloses an apparatus for receiving and/or processing communication signals having one of a plurality of alternate signal characteristics. A satellite signal having a desired characteristic may be selected from a plurality of characteristics. These characteristics may include satellite location, carrier frequency, and/or polarization state. The receiver generates a control signal which is coupled to an external device. The external device includes a decoder which receives the control signal and configures the external device for processing the desired characteristic.

The Examiner contends that claim 1 is anticipated by Eastman. Claim 1 has been amended to recite “resending said command signal from said integrated receiver/decoder to said selector switch once said integrated receiver/decoder has acquired and locked onto said satellite signal.” Eastman discloses sending a first command signal from said IRD to a selector switch. “In the IRD, responsive to a state selection command or signal corresponding to e.g. a channel which may correspond to one of the three or more signal characteristics, the required signal characteristic corresponding to the desired channel is determined (e.g. from a channel map periodically broadcast to all IRDs). Under software control, there is then developed a state selection signal” (see column 3, lines 59-65). Eastman, however, neither discloses nor suggests “resending said command signal from said integrated receiver/decoder to said selector switch once said integrated receiver/decoder has acquired and locked onto said satellite signal” as claimed in claim 1 of the present invention. In Eastman, a user can initiate sending a second command signal. Therefore, the applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable and this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

In view of the submission of the above clarifications and arguments, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application satisfies all of the criteria of 35 U.S.C. 102. Therefore, the applicant respectfully submits that the present claimed invention is patentable.

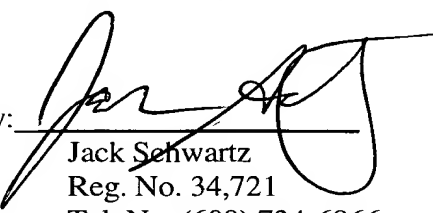
Application No. 09/475,444

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The applicant respectfully submits, in view of the above arguments, that all arguments made by the Examiner have been addressed and this rejection should be withdrawn. Therefore, the applicant respectfully submits that the present claimed invention is patentable.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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